

REDDISH URBAN  
SANITARY DISTRICT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1900.



By

T. HANSON SMITH,

M.D., D.P.H., Camb.

---

STOCKPORT:

"Advertiser" and "Cheshire Daily Echo" Offices, King Street East.

---

1901.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following are the rates for England and Wales, 1900 :—

	Death-rate per 1000 living.	Death-rate from principal Zymotic Dis- eases per 1000 living.	Infant Mortality per 1000 Births.
England and Wales .. ..	18.3	2.00	154
Rural England and Wales ..	17.5	1.	138
33 great towns .. ..	19.5	2.50	172
67 smaller towns.. ..	18.1	2.75	166

The birth-rate for England and Wales was 28.9 per 1,000 living.

# Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1900.

---

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE REDDISH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

GENTLEMEN,

**I**N presenting to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Reddish Urban District, I desire more particularly to ask your consideration of my recommendations with respect to the work of Sanitary Inspection, as well as other matters relating to the improvement of the District—several of which have been mentioned in previous Annual Reports.

## **Physical Features and General Character of the District.**

The Urban Sanitary District of Reddish comprises an oblong portion of South Lancashire, 1541 acres in extent, of which—excluding the River Tame and the Canal—approximately eight acres are covered with water.

It is bounded on the north by the Urban Sanitary District of Gorton, on the east by the Urban Sanitary District of Denton and the Parish of Brinnington, on the west by the Urban Sanitary Districts of Levenshulme and Heaton Norris, and on the south by the Borough of Stockport. Its greatest measurement is from north to south. The Stockport Branch

of the Canal and the road from Gorton to Stockport traverse the District from north to south for a distance of over two miles. The greater part of the district is fairly level, and has an average elevation above Ordnance Datum of 260 feet, with a natural drainage towards the west. The remaining part, which comprises a portion of the valley of the River Tame, has an average elevation of 160 feet, and the ground slopes abruptly from the higher to the lower level.

The solid rock, red sandstone, is found at a depth of about 23 feet in the south (Coronation Street), and about 125 feet in the centre of the District. Overlying this is glacial drift, which, as shewn by borings made during the construction of the main sewer, consists of beds of sand and what is locally known as marl (although containing no limestone), clay and pebbles.

The order of position varies. In the south, marls predominate, and in places a thin bed of clay overlies red and yellow sand and marls. In the middle portion of the District a thick bed of clay lies immediately beneath the soil.

In North Reddish is a thick bed of sand—variously described as dry, damp, dark sand, and quicksand—with thin beds of clay overlying it in parts.

Brick-making is a profitable industry at the present time in North and Mid-Reddish, and numerous brickfields have been worked in former times in all parts of the District.

The subsoil of the Tame Valley is chiefly made up of mixtures of sand and clay, and beds of pebbles, of granite, quartz, and hard sandstones.

**Population.**—The population is chiefly of the industrial class; density between five and six an acre; but chiefly massed in three fairly distinct divisions, which I have denominated North, Mid, and South Reddish, and in which the average number of persons per acre is considerably larger.



The estimated population in July, 1900, was :—

South Reddish	-	-	-	3090
Mid Reddish	-	-	-	3860
North Reddish	-	-	-	1850

The number of deaths registered during the year was 145. Of these five were non resident. Seven persons resident in the District died outside ; leaving a total of 147—viz., 76 males and 71 females. The births numbered 244—120 males and 124 females.

One death from apoplexy was not certified by a registered medical practitioner.

In eight cases a Coroner's Inquiry was held, and verdicts returned as follows:—Natural causes, 3 ; found dead, 2 ; asphyxiated by gas, 1 ; found drowned, 1 ; suicidal drowning, 1. The two cases of drowning and one from natural causes were non-residents.

The general death-rate for the year was 16.81, the average for the previous ten years 1890-99 being 16.82.

The birth-rate for the year was 27.27 ; the average for the previous ten years being 30.73.

TABLE I. gives the number of deaths in the specified age groups for the three divisions of the District.

DIVISION.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.		Under one year.	1 year and under 5	Five & under fifteen.	Fifteen and under 25	25 and under 65.	Sixty-five & over.
	Male.	Female	Male.	Female						
North Reddish	20	30	11	9	4	8	—	1	4	3
Mid Reddish..	56	43	41	34	23	15	3	2	15	17
South Reddish	44	51	24	28	15	9	2	2	17	7

The number of deaths of aged people in Mid Reddish was above the average.

TABLE II. shews causes of and ages at death during 1900 :—

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							NORTH.	MID.	SOUTH.	Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under one.	1 and under 5	Five & under fifteen	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	Over 65.				
Smallpox .....	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	2
Measles .....	12	2	9	1	..	..	..	2	10	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Whoop'g Cough	9	4	5	..	..	..	..	3	5	1	..
Diphtheria ....	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Epidemic Influenza..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Diarrhœa.....	10	7	3	..	..	..	..	..	4	6	..
Phthisis .....	5	..	..	..	1	3	1	..	3	2	3 <i>w</i>
Other Tubercular Diseases	9	2	7	..	..	..	..	2	4	3	..
Cancer, &c. ....	5	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	3	2	..
Bronchitis ....	7	4	..	..	..	2	1	2	..	5	..
Pneumonia ....	22	8	5	..	1	5	3	4	9	9	..
Alcoholism ....	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	2	1	1 <i>i</i>
Premature Birth	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Heart Disease..	13	..	..	1	..	6	6	1	7	5	..
Accidents .....	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1 <i>i</i>
All other causes.	43	12	2	1	3	11	14	5	24	14	2 <i>w</i>
All causes ....	147	41	33	5	5	36	27	20	75	52	9

*i* Stockport Infirmary.

*w* Workhouse.

TABLE III. gives the comparative death-rates for 1898, 1899, and 1900, together with the average for ten years, 1890-1899.

Year.	Birth-Rate	Death-Rate.	Zymotic.	Phthisis.	Respira- tion.	Infantile.
Average of ten years..	30.73	16.82	3.59	1.3	3.2	159
1898 ..	26.66	13.08	2.22	.86	2.46	121.02
1899 ..	27.73	15.83	3.69	1.07	3.45	218.8
1900 ..	27.7	16.81	4.	.5	3.3	168.

The number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases was made up as follows :—

	North Reddish.		Mid Reddish.		South Reddish.	
Smallpox ..	---	..	2	..	---	---
Measles ..	2	..	10	..	---	---
Scarlet Fever ..	---	..	2	..	---	---
Whooping Cough	3	..	5	..	1	1
Diphtheria ..	---	..	---	..	1	1
Diarrhœa ..	---	..	4	..	6	6
	—		—		—	
	5		23		8	

Of these 13 were under one year of age, and 19 were over one year and under five.

The average rates for the combined Urban Districts of Lancashire for five years (1895-1899), as compared with those of Reddish for the same period, were :—

	County.		Reddish.
General Death Rate ..	..	17.97	16.3
Zymotic ..	..	2.28	3.53
Infantile ..	..	173	167 per 1000 births.

I have pointed out in several of my previous annual reports the unsatisfactory nature of the Zymotic Death Rate, which has tended to increase rather than diminish during the

last ten years. The General Death Rate for the last fifteen years has been :—First five years (1885-1889), 18.58; (1890-1894) 17.25; (1895-1899) 16.31. But the Birth-Rate has diminished from 33.4 in the first five years to 29.9 in the third five years.

**Infectious Diseases.**—The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year :—

Disease.	NORTH REDDISH.		MID REDDISH.		SOUTH REDDISH.	
	Under 5 years.	5 years and over.	Under 5 years.	5 years and over.	Under 5 years.	5 years and over.
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	2	..	1*
Diphtheria ..	..	..	1	..	1	3
Membranous Croup..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas ..	..	1	..	5	1	..
Scarlet Fever ..	5	8	7	13	..	2
Enteric Fever..	..	3	2	4	..	1
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	1	..	..

**Smallpox.**—Two cases of Smallpox (adult males) were notified in May at one house in Mid Reddish. Through the courtesy of the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Stockport, the cases were on the 27th removed to the Stockport Hospital. Both cases terminated fatally, and neither presented signs of vaccination. Every care was taken, by re-vaccination and disinfection, to prevent the disease extending, and fortunately with success. The disease was traced with a fair amount of certainty to a case from another district. (*Special Report.*)



In June a case presenting all the appearances of modified smallpox was notified in South Reddish, and admitted to the Whitehill Hospital (Stockport Corporation) on the 16th. On the 18th, two cases which had been associated with the first were removed, for purposes of observation and as a precautionary measure. All these were children, one not vaccinated. The latter cases were dismissed so soon as it became clear that they were not suffering from smallpox. The former, on account of its doubtful nature, was detained for a longer period.

**Scarlet Fever.**—In January, three cases of scarlet fever were notified in Mid Reddish (one fatal).

In March, seven cases were notified, two in North Reddish and five in Mid Reddish.

In April, four cases in North Reddish, two in Mid Reddish, and one in South Reddish.

In May, one in North and one in Mid Reddish.

In July, three cases in Mid Reddish.

In September, eight cases in Mid and North Reddish, one of which was removed to Stockport Isolation Hospital.

In October, one case in North Reddish.

In November, two cases in North Reddish.

In December, two cases, one in North and one in South Reddish.

Although all possible precautions were taken under the circumstances, there is no doubt that the attempts at home isolation were not generally successful.

**Enteric Fever.**—Three cases of typhoid fever occurred during the autumn in one house in North Reddish.

Six cases of typhoid fever were notified in Mid Reddish. In one case I reported that the condition of the privy and back yard was unsatisfactory.

Special pails are provided when they can be utilised, and instructions given and disinfectants supplied for disinfecting all excreta.

**Measles and Whooping Cough.**—In my monthly report for December, 1899, I noted that two imported cases of measles had come under observation in North Reddish.

In January, 1900, several cases of measles and whooping cough were reported in North Reddish, and a considerable number were reported in February.

In March I reported "that measles and whooping cough were prevalent in Mid and North Reddish. So far the incidence has not been specially in children attending school, and I am receiving every information of cases from school authorities."

In April the epidemic continued to increase, and the schools in Mid Reddish were closed for a period of 14 days after Easter Holidays. (*Special Report.*)

Information was obtained of 104 cases of measles and 59 of whooping cough during the month.

A few cases came under observation in June and July.

**Diarrhoea.**—This disease was less prevalent than usual in summer. A modified epidemic occurred in August and September. Enquiries showed that six deaths were in hand-fed infants. Observations with the 4-foot earth thermometer showed the earth temperature barely reached and never exceeded 56° F. at any time, and in all probability the large rainfall in August had a preventive effect.

**Sanitary Work.**—The following figures were extracted from the Report Book of your late Inspector of Nuisances :—

Defective Privies	-	-	-	44 houses.
Choked Gully Traps	-	-	-	17 „
Defective Gutters and Downspouts	-	-	-	16 „
Surface Water Causing Nuisance	-	-	-	2 cases.
Stoved after Infectious Disease	-	-	-	13 houses.

**Samples of Food and Drugs.**—One sample only, of glucose, was taken during the year by your present Inspector, and that was found free from arsenic. As the County Council and Police have an efficient staff for regularly taking samples of Food and Drugs, it does not appear to be necessary for the officers of an Urban District Council to do so, unless their attention is called to some obvious breach of the law, or they are specially directed to do so by the Urban Sanitary Authority.

To ensure the welfare of the District in the future from a sanitary point of view energetic and systematic action is required both on the part of the Council and its officers.

- (a) The Sewage Works should be completed on a sufficiently large and satisfactory scale.
- (b) The removal of all insanitary privy pits and offensive privies of any description, and the substitution of water-closets and dry ashbins where possible. In any case, fixed receptacles should not be permitted. If found necessary, the bye-laws at present in force should be revised.
- (c) A re-arrangement of the present staff of officials should be made, so that one man may devote his time exclusively to sanitary work. This may be done without addition to present expenses.



- (*d*) The setting of the general sanitary work on a systematic basis, so that all inspections should be carried out regularly. The Scavenging Department should be similarly re-organised.
- (*e*) The consideration of means for obtaining the willing help of all inhabitants in the effort to promote the general welfare of the community. It is largely through the selfish indifference of a section of the community that nuisances exist.
- (*f*) A re-construction of the present Byelaws, the making of Byelaws under the Public Health Act Amendment Act, and a settlement of the Regulations under the Dairies and Cowsheds Order, should be considered.
- (*g*) Perseverance in the efforts already begun to obtain a suitable Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases, fully equipped in every respect.

**Industries.**—Originally a purely agricultural district, the prevailing industries now are Cotton Manufactories in South and Mid Reddish ; Plush and Fustian and Printing Works in South Reddish. Ironworks in Mid and North Reddish, and Calico Printing, Bleaching, and Confectionery Works in Mid Reddish. The land unbuilt on is chiefly used by farmers who keep cattle and supply milk. A large number of employées reside in the District, and some come from without.

In North Reddish many people reside who have business in Manchester, and it is in this portion of the District that the increase of population has been most marked.

**House Accommodation.**—Cottages predominate. The majority are well-built, through houses, having four to six rooms, and sufficiency of open space. The exceptions are in the case of houses built before the formation of the Local Board in 1883. I do not consider that there are a sufficient



number of houses having three good bedrooms. In many instances the yards are not paved, and in some of the older property privy middens exist, which almost without exception are a source of nuisance. Quite recently it has been decided to adopt byelaws which will give the Council power to deal with unpaved backyards. All privies built since 1896 have been built in accordance with existing byelaws, and the supervision of the erection of new houses has been more stringent during recent years, but is still not sufficiently systematic, the supervision of the laying and testing of drains being unsatisfactory. New byelaws were adopted in 1899 giving the Council further powers with respect to inspection of drains and houses previous to the latter being tenanted.

**Sewerage and Drainage.**—There is a complete system of main sewers, to which most of the houses are connected. A few houses in outlying parts still have cesspits. About half the District is drained on the dual system. The defects are chiefly in connection with the draining of private streets.

The sewage disposal works were completed about 1896, on the International system. The plant then laid down proved insufficient in extent, and additions to the works were agreed upon in 1899, as well as the laying out of the land. In the spring of 1900 the Sewage Committee found that the existing filters were not working satisfactorily, owing to the destruction of the filtering medium (polarite), and it was determined to try Bacteria Beds, made of clinker, in their place, before deciding on the precise nature of the large extensions necessary.

**Excrement Disposal.**—The excrement from the pails and privies, together with the house refuse, is collected by the Scavenging Department of the Council, and is disposed of by

tipping at convenient sites within the District. Some is used by farmers. The chief defects are the long or irregular intervals at which this is done, and the difficulty of cleansing the ground where the contents have been deposited previous to being removed in the carts. Much of the work has also been done in the daytime. Over 60 new houses recently built in North Reddish are provided with fresh water closets and dry ashbins.

I am informed by the Surveyor that the rule now adopted is to empty the closets by night, except for a period of six weeks before and six weeks after Christmas, and that the present staff of the Council is now sufficient to carry out the work satisfactorily.

**Water Supply of the District.**—By agreement with the late Stockport Waterworks Company, which is now taken over by the Stockport Corporation, Reddish is supplied with Manchester water, which is upland water from the valley of Longdendale. The supply is sufficient for all purposes, but I am informed that it undergoes no process of filtration, and I have received several complaints during the year of its quality.

A few detached houses, as at Grimesbottom and Pink Bank Lane, still derive their supply from shallow wells.

**Places over which the Council have supervision.**—There are no common lodging-houses. No offensive trades are carried on in the District. Improvements in the sanitary accommodation of three large works have been commenced during the year.

The Cow Sheds, 24 in number, have not been inspected regularly during the year, pending the remodelling of the Regulations—as suggested in my Annual Report for 1899.

**Nuisances.**—The method of dealing with nuisances has not been entirely satisfactory. Nuisances have been reported as existing, and notices have been served, but the further proceedings for abatement have not been followed up in a satisfactory manner. Since the recent changes in the staff there has been a great improvement in this respect.

**Methods of Dealing with Infectious Diseases.**—The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act was adopted in May, 1895, and the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, has been recently adopted. Only cases of Scarlet Fever and Typhoid Fever can be removed to Stockport Borough Isolation Hospital, on payment of £2 10s. per week, so long as the accommodation is sufficient. The Council, along with neighbouring District Councils, are now considering the formation of a joint hospital for the treatment of three diseases. Several meetings have been held since August, and the scheme has assumed a practical form, the Joint Committee having had the benefit of the valuable experience and advice of the Medical Officer of Health for the County (Lancashire). The scheme also provides for the proper disinfection of clothing and the provision of ambulance. The method of disinfection of houses &c., is by formalin lamp. The walls and floors are afterwards washed with solution of chlorinated lime. One case of Scarlet Fever only was removed to Stockport, and the method of disinfecting unwashable bedding is at present quite inadequate.

In order to obtain early and complete information of cases of infectious diseases—not notifiable—among school children, notices (copies of which are given in Appendix) have been sent to Head Teachers of Schools, with a request that they

might be filled in and returned weekly, or, in the event of a first case of infectious disease occurring, at once. In return, the cases were to be investigated, and a certificate given specifying the length of time and the reason for absence of the scholars mentioned. Owing to the inadequacy of the inspectorial staff the scheme has not yet received a trial.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. Hanson Smith, M.D., D.P.H., Camb.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

REDDISH,

MARCH 6TH, 1901.





APPENDIX.

(1.)

URBAN DISTRICT OF REDDISH.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN SCHOOL CHILDREN.

School..... Head Teacher.....

During the week ending.....

Standard.	Name.	Age.	Address.	Disease.	Date of Absence or Return.

URBAN DISTRICT OF REDDISH.

*School*..... *Head Teacher*.....

*During the month ending*.....

Standard.	Name.	Nature of Illness.	When Notified to M.O.H.	Probable Date of Return.	Total Absence.

I hereby Certify that, after investigation of the cases mentioned, the above is a correct return.

*Date*..... *Signed*.....

M.D., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.



